IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/598,934 Confirmation No. 2278

Applicant : Seiji Nakahata, et al.

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T.C./A.U. : 2826

Examiner : Selim U. Ahmed

Docket No. : 039.0075

Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office action of December 19, 2008, Applicant respectfully submits the following reply, constituted by amendments to the claims, and accompanying remarks urging the patentability of the claims.

(This reply is being filed on March 19, 2009, and is therefore timely filed.)

AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.